

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report on
the health of Wilmslow for the year 1913.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED BYERS.



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THE WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

A.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

THE WILMSLOW URBAN DISTRICT is situated in the County of Chester, about 10 miles south of Manchester. The London and North Western Railway from Manchester to Crewe runs through it. It forms part of the Cheshire plain, and is traversed by the valley of the River Bollin. Its area comprises 4,969 acres. The subsoil is chiefly sand and clay. On Lindow Common, and in its neighbourhood, there is peat. The district is partly suburban and partly rural in character. The population was 8,153 at the census of 1911, as against 7,361 in 1901, being an increase of 792, or 10.7 per cent. Between 1891 and 1901 the increase was 14.4 per cent. The population was estimated to be 8,300 in 1913. A considerable part of the population is residential, chiefly composed of persons engaged in business in Manchester and Stockport, with their families. There are no large manufactories in the district. Some of the inhabitants work at a cotton mill at Styal, and some at a bleach works at Handforth: places just outside the district. Many are employed in the ordinary local trades, whilst others are occupied with agriculture.

As a rule there is not much unemployment. Persons in receipt of poor relief are mostly aged and past work. There is no hospital in the district. The inhabitants make use of the hospitals in Manchester and Stockport, to which the Council are subscribers.

B.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The new works at Kinder belonging to the Stockport Corporation were opened in 1912, and the district is now supplied from this source.

The supply is constant, good, and ample for all needs.

No softening treatment is required.

Some parts of the rural area are supplied from wells.

No complaints were made during the year.

A sample of water from a well was analysed. The report was unfavourable. The well was cleaned out.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution were made during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage is treated by :—

- (a) Precipitation tanks and land ;
- (b) Broad irrigation.

No complaints were made during the year.

A few parts of the rural area (Morley and The Hough) are without a proper sewerage system.

No new works were carried out during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

This consists of water closets and ashpit privies. There are approximately 752 of the former and 765 of the latter. Thirty-two privies were converted to water closets during the year.

SCAVENGING.

The Council now undertakes the scavenging of the district. The dry refuse is put on farm land to fill up hollows, and the nightsoil on bog and farm land to be used as manure. Sixty houses have had moveable ashbins with proper covering substituted for fixed receptacles during the year.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED

DECEMBER 31st, 1913.

A Number and Nature of Inspections made.	Number.	B Number of Notices Served.		C Result of Service of Notices.		
		Statutory.	Informal.	Notices complied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions.
						Instituted Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	232	1	11	11	..	..
2. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	140	..	20	19	1	..
3. House Drainage	20	..	13	13	..	..
4. Ditches, Watercourses, &c. .. .	2	..	2	2	..	..
5. Offensive Accumulations	1	..	1	1	..	..
6. Slaughterhouses (Private)	8	..	..	..	..	..
7. (a) Dairies	4	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Cowsheds	40	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Milkshops	1	..	1	1	..	..
8. (a) Factories.. .. .	4	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Workshops	59	..	..	..	..	..
9. Bakehouses (Overground)	12	..	..	..	..	..
" (Underground)	1	..	..	..	..	..
10. Common Lodging Houses	8	..	..	..	..	..
11. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	28	..	..	..	..	..
12. Miscellaneous (Privy Middens converted to W.C.'s).	35	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	595	1	48	47	1	

(Signed) A. STOTT CARTWRIGHT.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There is one common lodging-house. It has been inspected and found to be in a fairly satisfactory structural condition and satisfactory as regards cleanliness.

There are no cellar-dwellings or offensive trades.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory.

Measles was very prevalent early in the year, and, in consequence, all the schools were closed for varying periods. The schools were disinfected.

It would be of much assistance in preventing the spread of infectious diseases if, when the schools have been closed for this purpose, children of school age were refused admission to the Picture Palaces. It is discouraging to see children shut out of school crowding into these places and thus helping to spread infection.

FOOD.

(a)—MILK SUPPLY.

There are 38 cowsheds and 4 dairies on the register. The quality of milk supplied is satisfactory.

Regulations are in force under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops' Order. All the premises were inspected during the year.

The premises and cows, with a few exceptions, are fairly well kept.

No action was taken during the year by your Council in regard to tuberculous milk. There is no inspection of cows for tuberculosis. A periodical inspection by a veterinary surgeon would be of great value.

(b)—OTHER FOODS.

There is no systematic inspection of foods carried out in this district.

The *bakehouses* have been inspected. Their sanitary condition was found to be satisfactory. One or two were not as clean as is desirable. It is rather surprising that bakers in general have not yet begun to deliver bread wrapped in paper. When one considers that, before the loaf reaches the consumer, it is usually handled by several persons and exposed to

dust and other kinds of dirt, it is obvious that contamination must occur. Whereas, if the bread were enclosed in clean paper wrappers, it would be kept perfectly clean. According to the *Medical Officer*, this is compulsory in the city of Erie, Pennsylvania. It is asserted that bread thus treated keeps better.

There are 8 *slaughterhouses* in the district. All were inspected. One new one has been built and one has been pulled down. The use of another has been discontinued owing to structural defects. These would require to be remedied before it could be used again. The modern slaughter houses comply with all requirements, and the others are in a fairly satisfactory condition. No carcasses or parts of carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis during the year. Three butchers use the Greener gun for killing and are highly pleased with it. The advantage is that killing is carried out as humanely as is possible. The gun is applied to the beast's head and the shot fired. The poleaxe is efficient in expert hands, though even the expert misses his aim occasionally. But what of the learner? Every man has to learn, and it is chiefly then that the poleaxe may be badly used, and a beast may have to be struck twice or more times before it falls. With the Greener gun the tyro never need fire more than once, and the animal is made insensible instantaneously. According to those who use the gun the condition of the meat is not unfavourably affected thereby.

(c)—SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACTS.

No work was done by the local authority under these Acts.

HOUSING.

Four new cottages were built during 1913. The character of houses for the working-classes is satisfactory.

No cases of overcrowding have come under notice.

Bye-laws are in force relating to the construction of new houses.

There are no back-to-back houses, and no cellar-dwellings.

Ninety-five dwelling-houses were inspected under S. 17 Act of 1909.

Nine were considered to be unfit for habitation.

No representations were made to the Council.

No closing orders were made.

In forty cases defects were remedied without the making of closing orders.

General character of defects found to exist :—

- (1) Insanitary closets.
- (2) Defective paving in yard.
- (3) Insufficient ventilation in bedrooms and living-rooms.

WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, &c.—

Four factories and Fifty-nine workshops were inspected.

Defects were found and remedied in two instances :

- (1) Defective sanitary accommodation.
- (2) Insufficient means of escape in case of fire.

C.—Sanitary Administration of the District.

1.—The staff consists only of an Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Surveyor.

WORK OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

See table, page 7.

2.—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By arrangement with the Manchester Corporation, the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board, on which the Wilmslow Urban District Council is represented, is provided with a sufficient number of beds at Monsall Hospital for cases of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis). Eight cases of scarlet fever and one of puerperal fever were removed to hospital during the year.

The Baguley Sanatorium has been converted into a sanatorium for tuberculosis by the Manchester Corporation. The Bucklow Joint Hospital Board has the use of 15 beds in this institution.

3.—ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Local Acts—none.

(b) Adoptive Acts :

The following are in force in the district :—

(a) Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.

(b) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II. ;

Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 50, comprised in Part III. ;

Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, comprised in Part IV. ; and Part V.

4.—CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

No chemical work was done during the year with the exception of one analysis of water from a well, the report on which was not favourable.

The bacteriological work is referred to under section D.

D.—Prevalence of and control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

Thirty-four cases of infectious disease were notified, viz :—

- 2 Erysipelas.
- 14 Scarlet Fever.
- 1 Enteric Fever.
- 1 Puerperal Fever.
- 8 Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- 8 Other forms of Tuberculosis.

Of the scarlet fever cases, 8 were removed to Monsall, where 1 died. Investigation showed that, whilst in some cases infection had been contracted from others notified, in the majority the cases had no connection with each other and the source of infection could not be traced. In some it was apparently outside the district.

The Council has arranged for the examination of pathological specimens at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory as an aid to the diagnosis of diphtheria, enteric fever and pulmonary tuberculosis.

During 1913 there were examined 2 throat swabs for diphtheria with negative results in all, 2 blood specimens for enteric with a positive result in one case, and 6 specimens of sputum for pulmonary tuberculosis with 1 positive result.

Antitoxin is provided for use in the treatment of diphtheria.

After notification of a case of infectious disease the premises were visited and examined for sanitary defects by the Sanitary Inspector, and enquiries made concerning contacts, etc. In cases treated at home arrangements as regards isolation were discussed and disinfection of premises, bedding, etc., carried out. Premises were disinfected by spraying with formaldehyde. By arrangements made between the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board and the Manchester Corporation the latter will provide a van and remove infected clothing, bedding, etc., to a disinfecting station, disinfect it, and return it.

No return cases or “ carriers ” have been found during the year.

Non-notifiable diseases were reported from the schools. An epidemic of measles occurred in the early months of the year, and whooping-cough was rather prevalent in the autumn.

***E.*—Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.**

Eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and eight of other forms of tuberculosis were notified. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was removed to the Baguley Sanatorium.

- (a) 16 visits were made on receipt of primary notification.
- (b) 16 subsequent visits were made.
- (c) Enquiries were made as to the existence of earlier unrecognised cases of tuberculosis in association with the notified cases.
- (d) No arrangements were made or proposed for utilising the services of the tuberculosis officer or nurses for the detection of such unrecognised cases.
- (e) Measures of disinfection were carried out.

***F.*—Investigation of other Diseases.**

There has been no unusual prevalence of other diseases necessitating investigation.

G.—Means for Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.

(a)—ADMINISTRATION OF MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

There are five midwives on the county register residing in the district.

Their case books and appliances have been inspected and are in order. Their houses are satisfactory.

Forty-five cases were attended during 1913.

Five records of sending for medical help were received.

No deaths of mothers or of infants were notified by midwives to have occurred before the attendance of a medical practitioner.

No notifications have been received of midwives having laid out a dead body.

The Sanitary Authority have not made any rule prohibiting the laying out of dead bodies by midwives.

No stillbirth has been notified by a midwife.

One case of puerperal fever, but no other case of infectious disease, is known to have occurred in cases attended by registered midwives.

Facilities are afforded for steam-disinfection of clothing of midwives who have attended such cases.

No midwives have been reported to the Supervising Authority.

No midwives have been suspended from practice.

(b)—PREVENTION OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Notification of Births Act has not been adopted as the District Midwife has hitherto attended most of the working women in their confinements and is well qualified to give them advice on the care of their infants.

Printed cards of Instructions to Mothers are distributed.

H.—Vital Statistics of the District.

151 births and 110 deaths belonging to the district were registered in 1913. Six births were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 18.2 per 1,000 living, as against 17.5 for 1912. The death-rate was 13.2 per 1,000 living, as against 11.2 for 1912. There were 11 deaths of infants under one year, all being legitimate, as against 9 in 1912. The infantile mortality, *i.e.*, the death-rate of infants under one year per 1,000 births, was 72.8, as against 62.5 in 1912.

Causes and numbers of deaths of infants :—

Whooping Cough	.. .. .	1
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	.. .. .	1
Convulsions	.. .. .	1
Diarrhœa	.. .. .	1
Enteritis	.. .. .	1
Injury at birth	.. .. .	2
Atelectasis	.. .. .	1
Congenital Malformation	.. .. .	1
Premature Birth	.. .. .	1
Other Causes	.. .. .	1

There were 4 deaths between 1 and 2 years, 2 between 2 and 5, 2 between 5 and 15, 3 between 15 and 25, 8 between 25 and 45, 30 between 45 and 65, and 50 at 65 and upwards.

Causes and numbers of deaths (excluding those under one year) :—

Measles.....	1	Bronchitis	7
Scarlet Fever.....	1	Pneumonia (all forms)	3
Influenza	1	Cirrhosis of Liver.....	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	5	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases		Violent Deaths (excluding suicide).	3
(excluding Meningitis) ..	2	Suicide	1
Cancer	15	Other defined diseases.....	26
Meningitis (non-tuberculous).	2	Diseases ill-defined or unknown...	12
Organic Heart Disease	14		

ALFRED BYERS,

Medical Officer of Health.

